

NorCal “High-Bird”

April 1, 2003
NorCal Group 5

A Quarterly Publication of Group 5 CAP



Coming in our Next Issue:

- Profile of Kevin Spesert: Group 5's new Legislative Liaison Officer
- Are you ready for HLS duties?
- Welcome new Group 5 Commander



Aerospace Education

Centennial of Flight Celebration

On December 17, 1903, on a gray, quiet morning, two brothers from Dayton, Ohio, hoped to prove to the world that powered, manned flight was possible.

Orville Wright did just that by flying the strange-looking machine, known as the Wright Flyer, for 12 seconds, covering a distance of 120 feet.

This simple, but historic event laid the foundation for the eventual creation of the

United States Air Force as a separate and independent service. Nearly 100 years later, we celebrate this achievement and all contributions to the history of flight by participating in the Centennial of Flight celebration.

To find out about Centennial of Flight events scheduled for your region, visit the website at www.calsnet.net/usafcent.

Maj. Dennis Parham

Safety

When playing with luck, the house usually wins

I stopped by a rural uncontrolled airport near Sacramento on the way back from Ione recently. There was a Cessna 182 in the pattern so I thought I'd watch for a few minutes. There were no other aircraft in the area, so this guy had the place to himself. His approach was a bit stiff. I'd seen this before in Fresno and the plane ended up on its nose after a bouncy landing. He appeared to have control

until just before touch down – he pulled the nose a bit too high. The plane stalled about 10 feet above the runway, the left wing dropped and as the left main hit, so did the left wing, throwing up large chunk of dirt. It bounced back and forth on the mains before settling down - three on the runway and no bent prop. What would you do next? I could not believe my eyes. This guy decided to try again - so he advanced the

throttle and took off. He did not slow down to check for damage. Back around the pattern he went and made two more landings before I left. (They were much better than the first.) I stopped by yesterday to see if I could find the aircraft, but no luck. I wonder about the pilot's luck - does he still have some? What would you have done, after trying to dig a hole with your left wing?

Maj. Jim Crawford

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Public Affairs

Group 5 Members Search for Columbia Debris

At the request of NASA, California CAP members joined fellow members in Nevada to help search for possible debris of the space shuttle Columbia during the month of February.

The California members were called in to aid the search that began with members from Texas, New Mexico and Arizona Wings already involved in the search for a month. The

California team was lead by Capt. Michele Gray of Vacaville.

The target search area was located 100 miles north of Las Vegas, near Panaca in the heart of the Nevada desert. Accompanying Capt. Gray was Lt. Alan Lord of Napa.

The process to cover the desert ground was slow, but methodical. Using flags and

GPS markers to tag "finds", the teams collectively turned over several pieces of debris that could potentially belong to Columbia. Several cadets, trained in ground search and survival, were also allowed to participate.

2Lt. Steve Taylor



Photos from 'Vacaville Reporter' article showing CAP volunteers searching for Columbia Shuttle debris.



Public Affairs

CAP Business Cards – Your Personal Billboard

You don't have to be a graphic designer...the format is already laid out. You don't have to buy paper stock and print them yourself. All you have to do is fill out a form with your position title, rank, name, address, phone number, and email. And for about \$17.00 total you can have 250 professional looking Civil Air Patrol business cards to let other people know you

are part of the "Eyes of the Homeland Skies". Nothing conveys professionalism during introductions better than a formal business card. And business cards are not just for PAO's. Every member with a leadership position in CAP should carry the official CAP business card at all times. They're not only necessary for giving to media, but they are perfect for recruiting new members.

After talking with someone about CAP, give them your card and write down the next meeting information for them on the back. Many people hold on to business cards for future reference, and pass them on to others as well. Contacts made today can result in fruit for the organization tomorrow because you took that extra step to be a professional.

2Lt. Steve Taylor



*Are you playing CAP?
Show your professionalism
with CAP business cards.
Give them to potential
recruits.*



Public Affairs

PAO's – Get Your MIO 101-T Card Today!

All unit Public Affairs Officers who want (read should) to become MIO's, should already have their 101-T card for MIO. If you don't, then log on to the WMU today and initiate the

process so your Commander can approve it. If you are current GS rated, then you qualify for MIO training status. This is important as it allows you to train with a MIO during SAREX's and

work to fulfill your training requirements for becoming a rated MIO yourself. This should be the goal of all PAO's.

2Lt. Steve Taylor



Chaplain The Call to Serve

Last Saturday I attended a funeral/memorial service for one of our own. His name was Pete North. He was a chaplain and served for a number of years with Sq. 19 at Beale AFB. I am sure that many of you knew Pete better than I did. So you know that he lived an exemplary life, and impacted a lot of lives for good. I remember him mostly from Chaplain Region Staff colleges where he would team up with Chaplain John Berger and lead our worship and devotional times in music. Pete loved music and was an accomplished pianist. Music was one gift that he gave to those of us who serve in the Civil Air Patrol. Another gift was himself.

That is the heart of a chaplain. We are called to serve. That means giving of our time, talents, skills and resources to make life better for those around us and represent our God in the process. Moral Leadership Officers play a similar role in the life and work of our total program. We are not there to shove religion down any one's throat. However, because of our calling we do bring a religious perspective to our work. Get to know your Chaplain or Moral Leadership Officer. They are there to come along side of other leaders in support of the total program. Now that the war with Iraq has started, there will certainly be an added strain on all of us.

There is no shame in admitting anxiety or our right fear about possible disasters that may come our way whether they are in our communities, our own families, or personal lives. The way to overcome anxiety and fear is to recognize it, admit it, and face it with strength and faith. We are a strong nation, we are a free nation, we are a good hearted nation, and with God's grace we will stay this way. Each of us who serve in the Civil Air Patrol have much to give. Each is valuable to the overall strength of our nation. As we face these uncertain times together, be assured that your Chaplains will keep you all in our prayers, and do whatever we can for the successful accomplishment of our mission.

Maj. George Dawson



Public Affairs

Cadet Becomes Youngest U.S. Balloon Pilot

It was just past sunrise on a very cool morning. The air was very quiet except for a slight breeze. It could have been the beginning of any ordinary day for Kyle Miller. But this would be no ordinary day.

It was Wednesday, and normally Kyle would be getting ready for school. But today was Kyle's 16th birthday, and he was unwrapping a most unusual package...a hot-air balloon.

Kyle has been learning to fly hot-air balloons for the previous 17 months, and today he was about to make

his most memorable flight. With his family, friends, instructor, and FAA examiner standing by, Kyle was about to take his Private Pilot check-ride.

In the vast open area of the former Stead Air Force Base in Reno, Nevada, Kyle prepared his balloon for liftoff. Check the fabric...connections...basket...burners...tanks...oh yeah, and the wind currents.

A little nervous, but ready to go, Kyle gives a thumbs-up as he and the examiner liftoff to 6000 feet, and the record books. Because on that day,

Kyle, a Cadet Staff Sergeant in Squadron 14, became the youngest licensed hot-air balloon pilot in the United States.

Kyle's flight went smoothly. Afterward his instructor stood proud as he presented Kyle his wings.

Kyle plans to obtain his commercial ballooning license, and hopes to get into the Air Force Academy after graduation. Congratulations Kyle!

2Lt. Steve Taylor



Cadet SSgt. Kyle Miller, Sq. 14, takes the check-ride for his balloon Private Pilot license on his 16th birthday.



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Coming events you don't want to miss!

May 3-4
Woodland Air Fair & EAA
Young Eagle Flights

May 3-4
Unit Commanders Course @
GP5 HQ

May 6
Group 5 Staff Meeting

May 10
Cadet O-rides @ Auburn

May 17-23
Pacific Region Staff College
@ Nellis AFB, Las Vegas

June 3
Group 5 Staff Meeting

June 14
Group 5 Awards Banquet @
Travis AFB

June 20-22
NCPSC & FIRC @ Sac.
Exec. Airport

June 20-22
EAA Golden West Fly-In @
Yuba County Airport

July 12-13
SLS & CLC hosted by SQ 23
& SQ 175 @ Santa Rosa

October 17-19
California Wing Conference
@ Newport Beach, CA

Public Affairs

Group 5 newsletter gets a face-lift

Although we've had a quarterly newsletter for almost 2 years now, this issue represents the inaugural issue of the "High-Bird".

It's our second generation in newsletter production in our effort to provide you with more useful and interesting

information, as well as a format that is fun to read.

The "High-Bird" will contain a greater variety of articles, more photos, staff profiles, and more opportunity for participation from Group 5 unit members.

If you have a topic you

would like to see more often, please let us know.

2Lt. Steve Taylor

We want YOU...to contribute to the NorCal "High-Bird"

We are interested in receiving articles from all Units on topics that you feel will be of interest to all members within Group 5.

You may submit articles and pictures either electronically or by regular mail. Electronic formats for articles should be in Microsoft Word format, or compatible. Electronic photo submissions should be sent in JPG format. Send electronic submissions to Steve Taylor, Group 5 Newsletter Editor at SJTentrprs@aol.com.

By regular mail, send photos in a protected envelope and provide your name and address for return. Mail documents to Steve Taylor, at the Group 5 HQ address.

United We Stand



God Bless America!